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Clean Version of Pending Claims

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING IMAGE TRANSPARENCY
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21. (Once Amended) A method comprising:

identifying a vector normal to a viewing surface and incident at an object having an object surface, the vector creating an angle of incidence at the object surface; and

modulating the transparency of an image of the object as a function of the angle of incidence of the vector at the object surface.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the function comprises a cosine function.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the function comprises a linear function.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the function comprises a non-linear function.

25. A method for generating a transparency factor for an image of an object, the method comprising:

selecting a viewing surface;

selecting a vector normal to the viewing surface;

determining an angle of incidence at the object surface created by the vector normal to the viewing surface; and

calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises:

calculating a cosine of the angle of incidence.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises:

calculating a linear function of the angle of incidence.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises:

calculating a non-linear function of the angle of incidence.

29. A computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium; and

a computer program capable of being executed from the computer-readable medium by the processor to modulate the transparency of an image of an object as a function of an angle of incidence of a vector at a surface of the object, the vector being normal to a viewing surface.

30. The computer of claim 29, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises a storage device.

31. The computer of claim 30, wherein the storage device comprises a memory.

32. The computer of claim 31, wherein the function comprises a cosine function.

33. The computer of claim 31, wherein the function comprises a linear function.

34. The computer of claim 31, wherein the function comprises a non-linear function.

35. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing a method of modulating the transparency of an image, the method comprising:

modulating the transparency of an image of an object as a function of the angle of incidence of a vector at the surface of the object, the vector being normal to a viewing surface.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 35, where the method further comprises:

modulating the transparency linearly.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the method further comprises:

modulating the transparency non-linearly.